

Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-05

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APPROVED BY A/SY/OPS/T:M H MUSSER
A - J THOMAS
SY/DASS - V F ST MARS
A/O - L DUPRE
EUR/EX:DCLEIDEL

-----081561 270327Z /20

R 262344Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL TURIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: USE OF FOREIGN-MADE VEHICLE

REF: ROME 12165

1. THE SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVE EVALUATION
CONTAINED IN THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM IS MUCH APPRECIATED.
WE ALSO HAVE A FULL APPRECIATION OF FACTORS, SOMETIMES
RELATED TO SECURITY, THAT LEAD TO OWNER-SHIP OF FOREIGN-
MADE VEHICLES BY OTHER AGENCIES AND BY EMPLOYEES.

2. WHILE WE DO NOT AGREE THAT DEPARTMENT'S POLICY IS TOO
RESTRICTIVE, WE ARE NOT UNSYMPATHETIC TO REFTEL VIEWS.

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WE PROPOSE TO SEND A TEAM TO EXPLORE WITH POST PERSONNEL
POSSIBILITIES FOR MEETING STATED NEEDS OF ITALIAN POSTS
WITHIN EXISTING POLICY. UPON RETURN, TEAM WILL PRESENT
ALTERNATIVES TO DEPARTMENT. TEAM WILL CONSIST OF A/OPR
AND A/SY REPRESENTATIVES TO:

(A) CONSIDER WAYS AND MEANS, INCLUDING LEASE CONTRACTS AND

INCREASED USE OF POVS, OF SATISFYING NEED FOR FOREIGN-MADE
INCREASED USE OF POVS, OF SATISFYING NEED FOR FOREIGN-MADE
VEHICLES UNDER EXISTING REGULATIONS.

(B) DETERMINE THE OPTIMUM MEANS OF PROVIDING A DEGREE OF
BALLISTIC RESISTANCE FOR SOME OF THE FOREIGN-MADE VEHICLES.

3. WE PROPOSE THE TEAM TO ARRIVE AT ROME ON AUGUST 9.
REQUEST THE FOLLOWING PREPARATORY ACTIONS:

(A) APPOINTMENTS BE MADE WITH THE LEADING AUTOMOBILE SUP-
PLIERS FOR SELECTION OF A FOREIGN VEHICLE BEST SUITED FOR
USG USE AND BELIEVED CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING U.S. MANUFAC-
TURED 9MM ARMOR SYSTEM. THE TEAM WOULD LIKE TO EXAMINE
THE CARS WITH AND WITHOUT INTERIOR UPHOLSTORY.

(B) WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE APPOINTMENTS TO WITNESS APPRO-
PRIATE TESTS AT AUTO ARMORING FIRMS OF ALL CANDIDATE TRANS-
PARENT AND OPAQUE ARMOR OF ITALIAN ORIGIN.

(C) INFORMATION BE GATHERED ON LOCALLY-AVAILABLE FOREIGN-
MADE VEHICLES THAT ARE RECOMMENDED FOR SECURITY REASONS:

(1) OBTAIN COST DATA BREAKDOWN AS TO BASIC COST OF VEHICLE
AND SEPARATE COST OF OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES,
FREIGHT, PREPARATION CHARGES, ETC. FYI: IF FOREIGN-MADE
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VEHICLES ARE TO BE PROVIDED AS REPLACEMENTS FOR VEHICLES
IN MOTOR FLEET, BASE PRICE OF SEDANS AND STATION WAGONS
CANNOT EXCEED PRESENT STATUTORY LIMITATION OF DOLLARS
2,700 AND DOLLARS 3,100 RESPECTIVELY. THERE IS A
POSSIBILITY THAT THIS LIMIT MAY BE INCREASED BY DOLLARS
300 TO DOLLARS 700 IN EACH CATEGORY.

(2) COST FOR LEASING VEHICLES FROM MANUFACTURERS OR PRI-
VATE FIRMS ON ONE YEAR, TWO YEAR AND THREE BASIS.

4. PLEASE ADVISE SUITABILITY OF TEAM SCHEDULING. CHRISTOPHER

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